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Examiner: Theresa T. Snider
Group Art Unit: 1744

REMARKS

By the present amendment, the title of the application as well as the preamble to each of the claims has been changed to read "Surface Cleaner" rather than "Extraction Surface Cleaner." In addition, the independent claims have been amended to remove the extraction system components from the claims so that all of the independent claims are generic to both extraction cleaners as well as vacuum cleaners. New claims 59-68 depend from the independent claims to set forth the elements of the liquid dispensing system. The amendments are believed appropriate because the Examiner has consistently used power drive elements from vacuum cleaners to reject the claims. Therefore, it appears appropriate to broaden the claims to cover vacuum cleaners as well as extraction cleaners. All of the claims distinguish over the references in the mechanics of the power drive system and not in the elements of extraction cleaners.

In addition, claims 42 and 51 have been amended to set forth elements of a transmission assembly in part to clarify a direct connection between the drive motor and the transmission assembly and to define some elements of the transmission assembly. Support for these amendments is found in the specification as filed, in particular FIGS. 5, 10, and 15, and the passages in the written description of the invention relating to these drawings.

Further, claim 38 has been cancelled and claim 53 has been amended to insert the word "assembly" after "transmission".

In the Office Action, claims 16, 38, and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph as being indefinite. It is believed that the cancellation of claim 38 and the amendment to claim 53 obviates this rejection.

Claim 42 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Louis et al. in view of Camarata et al. U.S. Patent No. 1,459,946. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the Applicants' amendments to claim 42, it would appear that claim 42 distinguishes over any combination of Louis et al. in view of Camarata et al. '946 or over Camarata et al. '946 by itself. In particular, claim 42 has been amended to set forth the direct connection between the drive motor and the transmission and elements of the transmission that distinguish over Camarata et al. More specifically, claim 42 has been amended to define the transmission as having a gear which is mounted to the output shaft of the drive motor and further having an output shaft which is parallel to but offset from the drive motor shaft. This concept is not disclosed in Camarata et al. '946. In

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Camarata et al. '946, the motor output shaft is perpendicular to the transmission outlet shaft which is believed to be element 10 in Camarata et al. '946. In addition, elements 11, 13, and 18 are also believed to be elements of the Camarata et al. '946 transmission assembly.

It is therefore believed that claim 42 patentably defines over the Louis et al. and Camarata et al. '946 references, either singularly or in combination.

Claim 51 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Louis et al. in view of Camarata et al. '946 and further in view of Webb U.S. Patent No. 4,167,799. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Webb '799 patent discloses a carpet cleaning machine wherein a drive motor drives a traction driver mounted to the base and a handle pivotally mounted to the base has controls and handle grips for controlling the direction of the drive motor.

It is believed that amendments to claim 51 define over any combination of Louis, Camarata et al. '946, and Webb '799. The references, either singularly or in combination do not disclose a surface cleaning machine in which a reversible motor has a direct connection to the transmission through a gear mounted on the output shaft and the transmission itself has an output shaft which is spaced from but parallel to the motor output shaft.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Early notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 10-21-05

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